

Billy and Crystal Coley

Missionaries in Kenya



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Dear Pastor and Church family:

Our Trip to Butula, Kenya

Our bags were packed, and the van was loaded. Missionary Cormier and I had made every preparation for our trip to Butula, Kenya to spend four days up-country. We were bringing with us sufficient water, food, and malaria medicine. We had planned our route with stops along the way as the trip would be an 8 hour drive on rough Kenyan roads. Our goal for those four days was to encourage and to be a help to Pastor Ephraim and his church family. Pastor Ephraim was sent by Karen Baptist Church to plant the church in Butula. Due to COVID restrictions, it had been nearly two years since Bro. Cormier had been able to make the trip out to Western Kenya.

Bro. Cormier had been requested by Pastor Ephraim to teach several hours worth of music class lessons on that Saturday to help the church family to better understand the Biblical use of music. I was to help by preaching some messages in Swahili on that Saturday and Sunday. We had expectations of visiting people in their homes, witnessing to the lost, and encouraging church families in the faith.

In short, we were excited to finally be able to leave the Nairobi area and to minister in another part of the country! After loading the van, Bro. Cormier and I finished up our checklist of final preparations and wished each other a good night as we would be leaving early in the morning. Just an hour later, we received official word that Western Kenya, which included Butula, had been locked down by the government of Kenya due to a spike in COVID cases.

We were both disappointed and relieved. We were disappointed that after all of our preparations, we would need to cancel the trip. Add to that, the trip had been canceled once before due to a lockdown in Nairobi where we stay. Although disappointed, we were also relieved that the notice had come in before we left. If we had found out later, there would have been the possibility of us being stuck up-country and away from our families for 30 days. Lord willing, once that part of Kenya opens back up, Bro. Cormier and I plan to travel to Butula. We would appreciate prayer for Pastor Ephraim, his family, and his church family. Many of them have been battling malaria over the last month.

Evangelism in Karen

With the canceling of the trip to Butula, we needed to shift gears and focus on the ministry of Karen Baptist Church. I had the opportunity to preach both English and Swahili services this past Sunday and some services last month. My wife is still doing well in her Swahili class. I have been thrilled to see her progress in the language. It is exciting to see her use Swahili as we take our walks in the neighborhood where we live, or as we travel about town. She has Gospel tracts in her purse ready for when an opportunity arises.

During the church's evangelism time, I have been trying to use only Swahili; I need the practice and many of the people would have difficulty understanding my English. I had the opportunity to confront some ladies about their need of salvation. Some were polite, but didn't seem interested. Others seemed interested, but struggled with the new idea that their salvation does not come "by works of righteousness." Please pray for Maureen and Patricia that the Lord would work on their hearts regarding their need for salvation.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support!

Billy and Crystal Coley